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EDUCATION WEEK

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Schools and the Police: 'We Need Each Other'

But New Alliances Prompting Policy Questions

By Lisa Jennings

Every day, during the lunch hour at Washington's Eastern High School, Principal Ralph Neal strolls the grounds with Roy DeMesme, a District of Columbia police officer.

The object of their patrol, the principal says, is "to be seen together."

And that sight has had its impact at this inner-city school in the nation's new "murder capital."

When Officer DeMesme was assigned as a "short-beat cop" for Eastern four years ago, the principal says, there was an open-air drug market right across the street. Students could look out a window during class and see a drug deal in progress.

But that is no more.

The community's drug problem persists, Mr. Neal admits, but it has moved away from his campus since Officer DeMesme became a daily presence.

Like more and more police officers in cities nationwide, the Eastern High patrolman is not on hand solely to enforce the law. According to Mr. Neal, he also teaches classes on drug-abuse prevention and has become a friend to students.

"We have an excellent relationship," Mr. Neal says. "We need each other."

That sense of mutual dependency, experts say, is helping forge a new era of partnership between two public agencies that have oftimes viewed each other with mutual suspicion.

In the 1960's, one Philadelphia school administrator recalls, school leaders sometimes saw the police as "our enemies." And those in law enforcement, he adds, "thought the schools were full of.

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Craig Herndon/The Washington Post

Principal Ralph Neal and Police Officer Roy DeMesme on patrol.

Bush To Create Education Post In White House

Taps Political Scientist For Unprecedented Job

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—President Bush is on the verge of naming a full-time adviser on education to his White House staff, *Education Week* has learned.

The White House appointment will be unprecedented for education, political analysts said, reflecting a dramatic rise in the issue's national prominence.

John E. Chubb, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, confirmed last week that he had accepted the job.

Roger B. Porter, assistant to the President for economic and domestic policy, said that he had interviewed candidates for the new position and that Mr. Bush would soon announce an appointment. Mr. Porter would not comment further on the new post.

"There's really no precedent for it," Mr. Chubb said. "What's happened is that Bush has made education a top priority, and Presidents have people in fields important to them to provide advice and be a check on the departments."

Mr. Chubb, who said last year that he had "voted Democratic more often than Republican," joined Brookings, an established Washington think tank, in 1984.

He was previously an assistant professor of political science and the associate director of public policy at Stanford University. Mr. Chubb is best known in education circles for his support of parental choice in public schools, an idea Mr. Bush has also espoused.

Mr. Chubb said his role would be to advise the President, represent his views, and do battle with the federal bureaucracy where its interests conflict with the President's—a role he acknowledged might result in conflicts with the Education Department.

"The basic reason to have an expert in a policy area is to represent the President's

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Nationwide Project Scraps 'Layer Cake' Approach to Science

By Robert Rothman

Charging that the science curriculum is to blame for students' poor performance and lack of interest in the subject, the National Science Teachers Association has unveiled plans to overhaul the "layer cake" structure that has dominated secondary-school instruction for nearly a century.

New math texts readied, page 5.

The project, set to begin next year in about 20 schools, will replace the traditional curriculum—in which decreasing numbers of students study a separate discipline each year—with a new form of organization that allows all students to study all subjects every year.

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Key Effects of Desegregation Policy Remain Unknown, Study Contends

By William Snider

Social scientists have yet to adequately measure the costs and benefits of efforts to desegregate schools and neighborhoods, according to a forthcoming study by a sociologist whose earlier work sparked a controversial reassessment of the war on poverty.

While a number of studies have attempted to determine the effects of racial and economic isolation on the educational achievement of individual students, the report says, most are either methodologically flawed or contradict the findings of other studies.

In addition, the current body of research fails to answer many important questions, it contends.

For example, the study says, "most experts believe that a school's racial mix does not affect white students' achievement, but the evidence for this view is not conclusive."

And while there is some evidence that attending an integrated school benefits black students, at least in Northern school districts, it says, researchers have not determined whether this effect is as valid for low-income students as for those of middle income.

The study,"The Social Consequences of Growing Up in a Poor Neighborhood: A Review," comes at a time when some policymakers are expressing renewed interest in efforts to racially and economically integrate neighborhoods and, to a lesser extent, schools.

But both supporters and opponents of school and housing desegregation will find little valid research to back up their arguments, the study says.

"I don't think most people who have been

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'Clinical Schools': Theory Meets Practice on the Training Ground

Craig Stafford

School and university collaborators at San Antonio's Mark Twain Middle School.

By Lynn Olson

Like thousands of aspiring educators nationwide, Patricia R. Morey has spent part of this year as a student teacher, gaining her first exposure to classroom life.

But compared with the experiences of her colleagues, Ms. Morey's introduction to teaching has been, in her words, "richer" and "more intense." She has participated in an experimental program in Brookline, Mass., that some say could be the wave of the future in teacher training.

For the past several years, a small group of teachers at the Edward Devotion School in Brookline has been trying to create a new kind of clinical-training program that would simultaneously introduce new teachers into the profession, enrich the lives of veteran teachers, and improve student learning.

Known by a variety of names—"professional-development schools," "professional-practice schools," and "clinical schools," to name a few—fledgling initiatives similar to the Brookline program are springing up in a handful of locales around the country.

They are real schools, jointly operated by universities and school districts, that offer student teachers and novices a much more structured and supportive introduction to teaching than now exists.

Unlike most schools—where the training of future educators is a low or nonexistent priority—these schools will assume the professional education of teachers as a primary function.

Their proponents argue that by helping new recruits meld theory and practice, and

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Also in the news

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National certification for school practitioners is under way, requiring graduate work, an internship, and a skills test.

10 **Florida as Equity Leader**
With strong support from educators, a bill holds promise of making school districts "almost totally equalized."

14 **Bush's Education Package**
Republicans praise initiatives, Democrats cite money gaps, but some say plan will not survive in its present form.

IN SUMMARY

New Math Textbooks
A six-year effort to overhaul the secondary-school mathematics curriculum takes a major step forward this week with the publication of its first textbooks. **Page 5.**

The Crumbling Schoolhouse
The nation needs to spend more than $100 billion on construction and renovation of school buildings, many of which are overcrowded, obsolete, or in need of repairs, a new study argues. **Page 6.**

Minneapolis Choice Plan
The Minneapolis board of education has voted to reject an ambitious plan that would have guaranteed parents their first choice among the variety of educational programs offered in the district. **Page 7.**

High-School Portfolio
Manny Crisostomo, a photographer for the *Detroit Free Press*, has won a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of a year in the life of the city's Southwestern High School. **Page 9.**

Gassing Up in Texas
Texas educators are concerned about the financial consequences of proposed legislation requiring school districts gradually to switch to buses powered by natural gas. **Page 10.**

Anti-Drug Commitment
Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos last week promised to make an additional $2 million in discretionary funds to expand and enhance school efforts against drug abuse. **Page 14.**

A Special-Needs Merger?
The Education Department last week urged the Congress to combine programs for the nation's 5,400 deaf-blind children with those serving other severely handicapped youths. **Page 15.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Pediatrics Group Opposes Involuntary Drug Testing

"Older" adolescents with no history of drug problems should not be required to undergo drug tests before participating in athletics and other school activities, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

In a statement on adolescent drug testing, the group also opposes making student athletes the focus of involuntary screening efforts.

"If the primary purpose of drug screening was health promotion, there would be little reason for singling out student athletes, as the use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco are prevalent throughout the adolescent population," the statement argues.

Although "voluntary" screening programs are acceptable, the group says, they are unlikely to detect many drug abusers and can assume a coercive aspect.

Parental permission may be sufficient for the involuntary screening of younger students and older adolescents who are at high risk of substance abuse, the association maintains. The statement does not specify at what age students should be considered older adolescents.

■ **The Maxwell Communication Corporation, a British publishing firm, has purchased Jossey-Bass Inc.** for $8 million in cash.

Maxwell bought Macmillan Inc., a leading U.S. textbook publisher, late last year.

The San Francisco-based Jossey-Bass specializes in titles in public administration and business and management, as well as books for education professionals. The sale of the company is not expected to affect its plans to expand its list of books, quarterly series, and audiotapes, according to Steven Piersanti, who will serve as president and chief executive officer of the company.

STATES

Massachusetts Officials Warn Boston on Voc.-Ed. Failings

The Massachusetts education department has given the Boston school district one year to improve vocational-education programs or lose state approval.

Withdrawal of state backing would strip the district of authority to operate such courses.

A report by a 67-member evaluation team said that 21 of the 31 vocational programs offered in the district did not fully meet state regulations on safety and educational quality.

Boston school officials have given vocational education a "second-class status" that has contributed to declining enrollments, low staff morale, and uneven instructional standards, the report maintained.

"This is not only to relay our displeasure but also to give them notice," said David Cronin, associate commissioner for the state's occupational-education division. "Unless the programs are improved, they will no longer be approved by the state."

Without state approval, a local district is legally prohibited from running vocational-education classes and cannot receive state reimbursements for them.

If the district is barred from running such programs, the 600 students currently in vocational-training classes in Boston schools would have to transfer to other communities.

■ **Pennsylvania school officials must develop a plan for providing handicapped students in two eastern counties with classroom facilities that are "comparable in quality" to those of their nonhandicapped peers,** a federal district court has ruled.

The case involved special-education programs in 14 school districts in Carbon and Lehigh counties.

There were "significant disparities" between the districts' regular classrooms and those for handicapped students in "size, sanitation, noise levels, furniture, and ventilation," Judge Daniel H. Huyett 3rd found. Special-education classes frequently were shuffled among districts, forcing students to travel long distances, he noted.

"Educational programs for handicapped children compete for space and money with programs for nonhandicapped students," the judge wrote, adding that students with disabilities "have for too long been the losers in this competition."

State education officials were not expected to contest the ruling.

■ **Educators who administer corporal punishment resulting in severe bruising can be classified as child abusers,** a Florida appellate court has ruled.

The First District Court of Appeal turned down a plea by two educators who had sought to have their names expunged from the state's child-abuse registry after paddling children for disciplinary infractions.

The paddlings—administered in two separate incidents by a dean and a principal—resulted in "extensive" bruising that lasted about a week, according to court records.

Although the punishments were inflicted in accordance with state law and with parental consent, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services was justified in classifying them as abuse because of the extent and duration of the bruises, Judge J. Klein Wigginton wrote for the majority.

In a dissent, Judge Ford L. Thompson argued that the punishment did not constitute "excess force." The department should seek legislation to prohibit corporal punishment, he maintained, instead of adopting an "unwritten arbitrary and capricious policy" to limit its use.

'Mrs. Bic' Is Teaching's Tops

Mary V. Bicouvaris speaks to students in her Hampton, Va., high school.

Mary V. Bicouvaris, named last week as the 1989 Teacher of the Year, was feted in a series of Washington appearances at which she quickly became known as "Mrs. Bic," a nickname used by her affectionate students.

Ms. Bicouvaris, 49, who teaches government and international relations at Bethel High School in Hampton, Va., was born in Greece. She came to the United States in 1960 and has taught at Bethel for 24 years.

"Her secret is in using the real world for her classroom," President Bush said at a Rose Garden ceremony honoring Ms. Bicouvaris. First Lady Barbara Bush presented her with a crystal apple.

During the 1988 Presidential campaign, Ms. Bicouvaris's students were given extra credit for working for the candidates of their choice. The founder and sponsor of Bethel's Model United Nations program, the new Teacher of the Year has taken her students to city council meetings and embassies, and frequently stages mock elections and political debates.

"I tell my students that I will haunt you when the day comes and you're eligible and do not vote," Ms. Bicouvaris said at her first press conference. "I want them to claim a place in this country."

The National Teacher of the Year contest is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Encyclopaedia Britannica Companies, and Good Housekeeping magazine. —A.B.

DISTRICTS

N.J. Board Hit by Safety Charges In Wake of Fatal Building Collapse

The Willingboro, N.J., school board has been charged with safety violations as the result of a state investigation into a building collapse that killed one worker and injured five others.

The New Jersey labor department concluded that the board ignored three provisions of the state safety code when officials ordered a maintenance crew to tear down a building on school grounds.

The collapse of the structure on March 13 caused the death of David Cartier, 46, an 18-year employee of the district.

Officials failed to warn employees of potential hazards, did not conduct the required engineering survey to determine the possibility of a building collapse, and al-

lowed support beams to be removed from the side of the building before the roof was removed, the state report alleged.

The state agency ordered the district to submit by the end of the month a plan for future demolition projects.

Elmer Corda, president of the board, said investigators had not yet determined who ordered the maintenance crew to begin demolition.

But Superintendent Peter J. Romanoli said the board made the decision without his approval while he was busy elsewhere.

The district will not be penalized by the state unless it does not comply with the order, a department spokesman said.

But state police are investigating whether criminal negligence led to the injuries, which could also result in civil litigation.

■ **Officials of Middlebury College and New York City's DeWitt Clinton High School last week announced the formation of a unique partnership** intended to bolster the graduation and college-attendance rates of the high school's students.

The agreement calls for faculty and alumni of the college, located in Middlebury, Vt., to be involved in lecture and teaching days at DeWitt, and for DeWitt teachers and students to participate in special programs at Middlebury.

The college's admission staff will also conduct a program at Dewitt to help high-school students from throughout the Bronx understand the processes for applying to college and for financial aid.

The partnership is an outgrowth of a seven-year effort by Middlebury to improve its recruitment and retention of minority students, said Ron Nief, chief spokesman for the college.

■ **The Smithfield, R.I., school system must offer special-education services to children at a state-funded home for delinquent and neglected children,** the state supreme court has decided.

The court ruled March 28 that the school district has to provide speech and language therapy to students at the St. Aloysius Home for Boys because the home, which can serve up to 100 youths, is not a "closed" facility. Under state law, school districts are exempted from serving detention homes and other facilities where children are confined to the grounds.

Superintendent David R. Reilly of Smithfield said the ruling could have a "far-reaching" impact on the small suburban district, as well as on other communities where such state-operated group homes are located.

■ **The murder of a 15-year-old student in a Worcester, Mass., high school has prompted public demonstrations of unity by students,** who denounced reports that the incident was caused by tensions between blacks and Hispanics.

Gerome Johnson, a star athlete at Worcester High School, died late last month after being stabbed in the neck. Police have refused to identify the Hispanic student who has been charged with juvenile delinquency by reason of murder in the case.

Although some parents and teachers blamed the attack on longstanding racial tensions at the school, a police investigator said the incident was the result of a personal feud between the two youths.

About 60 students staged a march outside the school on the day after the slaying to demonstrate their solidarity.

■ **A Knoxville, Tenn., television station has developed a commercial-free news program for teenagers.**

Knoxville is also home to Whittle Communications, creator of Channel One, a controversial pilot project that broadcasts news and commercials into high schools.

"We want to get the students interested in news," said Earl Taylor, program director of WKXT-TV said last week.

The weekly feature will provide 15 minutes of world, national, and local news, including a two-minute report produced by a local high-school student. It will be aired in the early-morning hours, so that school officials can videotape it for showing at any time.

■ **Some Detroit and Dallas high-school students could accumulate as much as $2,000 each for college or job training** from a new dropout-prevention program underwritten by Pepsico Inc.

Under "The Pepsi Challenge," which was scheduled to be launched this week, the soft-drink company will provide $500 per semester for "at-risk" students at one school in each city who maintain a C average and an 80 percent attendance rate and graduate in four years.

The company also proposes to pay 50 teachers at each school $1,000 a year to act as mentors for students. As a result, schools that currently have high dropout rates would "almost become magnet schools of sorts," said Rebecca Madeira, spokesman for the firm.

Committees of local school officials, Pepsi employees, and representatives of the Citizen's Scholarship Foundation of America will select the schools for the pilot program.

Teaching That Teaches

Bud Kraft/Louisville Courier Journal

Ron Simon, right, reads to Crecentia Gatsos in the library reading pit at the Mount Tabor School in New Albany, Ind. Teachers at the school have paired 1st graders with learning-disabled 6th graders, who tutor their young charges in reading. The project is aimed at improving the reading skills of both sets of students.

DIMENSIONS

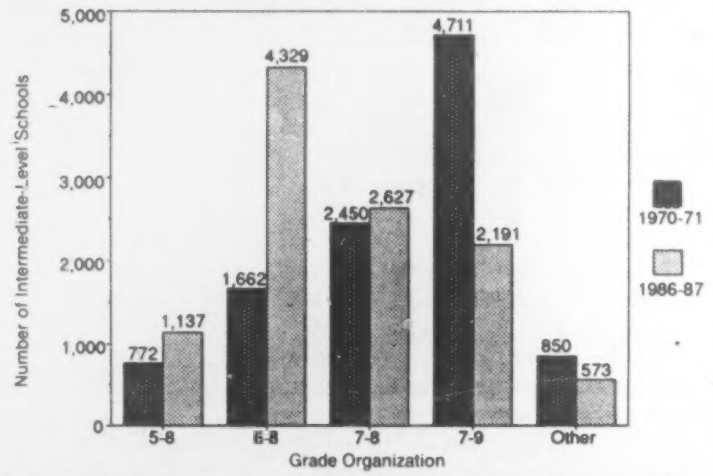
Junior Highs and Middle Schools

The number of junior high schools has fallen substantially in the past two decades, while the ranks of middle schools have burgeoned, a new study of the middle-school movement indicates. The once-dominant junior highs, which contain the 7th through 9th grades, declined by 53 percent between the 1970-71 and 1986-87 school years, figures cited in the study show. But the number of middle schools comprising the 6th through 8th grades increased by 160 percent, and those with the 5th through 8th grades increased by 47 percent.

The bulk of the study, by William M. Alexander of the University of Florida and C. Kenneth McEwin of Appalachian State University, was based on a 1987 survey of 670 intermediate-level schools of all types of organization. The responses were compared with a similar survey of middle schools conducted by Mr. Alexander in 1968.

In addition to changes in grade organization, the researchers found some growth in characteristics they said were desirable in middle-level education, including an interdisciplinary organization, a flexibly scheduled day, teacher-advisory plans, and an emphasis on giving students an opportunity to explore a wide variety of subjects and experiences.

Copies of "Earmarks of Schools in the Middle: A Research Report," are available for $3.00 each from Mr. McEwin, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. 28608.



PEOPLE

■ A deeply divided Detroit board of education voted 6 to 4 last week to ask **John W. Porter**, a former state superintendent of education in Michigan, to become the district's superintendent.

Mr. Porter, who is currently serving on the staff of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, has not decided whether he will accept the post, a spokesman for the Detroit board said.

Mr. Porter has long been the first choice of a slate of reform candidates who were elected to the board last November, but his selection had been held up by opposition from some of the remaining board members.

Arthur Jefferson, the district's current superintendent, announced last fall that he would step down this June if a replacement were found. The board was forced to act on the issue after a state official threatened to withhold approval of a desperately needed loan unless a new superintendent was named by May 1.

■ **James R. Oglesby** was installed last week as president of the National School Boards Association at the group's annual convention in Anaheim, Calif.

Mr. Ogelsby is a member of the Columbia, Mo., school board. He previously has served as president-elect, vice president, and secretary-treasurer of the N.S.B.A.

Also at the convention, the group's delegate assembly voted 89 to 61 in favor of a resolution supporting intradistrict choice plans allowing parents to select which local school their child will attend.

One opponent of the resolution was **Thomas Adams**, head of the school-boards group in Minnesota, which will launch an interdistrict choice plan next fall. Mr. Adams said most districts across the country already allow for an internal choice option.

UPDATE

■ **The East St. Louis, Ill., board of education has mailed layoff notices to some 900 employees, including more than a third of the district's teachers.**

The layoff notices to 902 of the district's 1,800 employees went out March 30.

The layoff plan was urged by state officials, who have been working with the district to help control its mounting financial problems. *(See Education Week, March 29, 1989.)*

School officials have expressed hope that some of the employees could be recalled before the start of the next school year. The June layoffs will affect 388 teachers and 514 noncertified employees.